

# King Edward Training Grandson



WHO will be the next King of England? Seems like an easy question to answer, doesn't it? The Prince of Wales, one would say, is in line to succeed King Edward on the throne of the British empire. So he is, but British subjects and others who keep close tab on what is going on in royal circles, are predicting that the present heir-apparent will never ascend the throne, even if he survives his illustrious father.

These close observers base their predictions on numerous incidents which have occurred since the death of Queen Victoria. More especially, however, their prophecies are built on the attitude of King Edward himself, who, with an eye to the future, is said to have passed up his eldest son as a possibility for his successor, and is carefully grooming his grandson, Prince Edward, for the most exalted position in the United Kingdom.

WHEN THE present ruler of England was Prince of Wales he was, in the popular vernacular, "a sport" twenty-four hours a day, and proud of it. Americans, now growing old, who were fortunate enough to meet him when he toured the United States many years ago, are wont to tell brightly colored stories of his sporting proclivities. As a gallant he was without a peer, and he was then, as he is now, a lover of thoroughbred race horses. Late hours and jolly company were a regular part of his daily routine.

The new responsibility which fell to his lot upon the death of Queen Victoria, however, wrought in him a change which is looked upon as wonderful. Today he is looked upon as a King who is doing his full duty to his subjects. He has made his hand felt in European diplomacy, and he has none of the impetuosity of his kinsman, Emperor William, but his determination, equally as great as that of the soldier-ruler, is aided rather than hampered by his suavity of manner.

## Would Continue his Policies.

Perhaps it is because of his success in weighty affairs of the world that has caused the King to ponder—to look backward and then to peer into the future with a view to planning a continuation of the policy which makes England a dominant factor among the great powers.

Having been through the mill, as it were, he is in a position to know the qualifications which a man should have in order to become a king in fact as well as in name.

A well-defined rumor is now in circulation in the London clubs and in drawing rooms that, having made a thorough analysis of the state of affairs royal family does not look with favor upon the Prince of Wales as a successor. This rumor has become so persistent of late that it has found its way out of the drawing rooms, and is now a subject of street gossip. The street gossip is taken up with avidity.

## Prince Is Unpopular.

Despite the supposed democracy of the prince, he is as unpopular with the masses as his father was popular during the reign of Queen Victoria.

This unpopularity seems strange when it is considered that at times the prince gets closer to the masses than any other member of the royal household. This is not due to his love for the people so much as it is a desire to do extraordinary or freaky things.

In a degree he seems to have inherited some of his father's traits. He, too, is fond of jolly company, but his companions are men. Nothing suits him better than a hilarious evening in the wardrobe of an English warship. At such times it is no secret, wine flows freely, and the prince is always the last to leave the table.

Upon his recent trip to Canada, where he participated in the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of Quebec, he announced his intention of going into the stockhole of the warship and mingling with the coal passers. He accordingly donned a suit of duck and went into the lower regions. He had been there but a few moments when he borrowed a shovel and pitched coal into the roaring boiler.

## Photographed With Grime.

With his beard filled with coal dust and presenting a generally disheveled appearance, he then went on deck and had himself photographed.

It is when he is at home, however, that some of the prince's actions cause unfavorable comment. He is not so astute, so it would appear, as his royal father desires and makes little or no effort to conceal it. It was because of this state of affairs,

so it is said, that the King stepped into the breach. A little more than a year ago it was noticed that Edward VII seemed to be especially interested in the welfare of Prince Edward, the eldest son of the Prince of Wales.

The boy's grandfather planned his education, apparently, with a view to making definite plans for his future. During the past year the King has made several diplomatic missions on the Continent and on more than one occasion he was accompanied by



QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

the young prince. At first what appeared to be a pleasing companionship between the two caused no comment, but the trips were repeated.

## Took Boy on Important Trip.

When the King journeyed overseas two months ago to confer with Emperor William on matters of more than usual diplomatic importance he again took his grandson with him. The affairs of great nations were discussed by the two monarchs with the prince as an interested auditor. It was then that the whisper went around: "The King is grooming Prince Edward for the throne," and the whisper has grown and grown until today it is common talk in the streets of London.

Granted that the rumor is true, the prince could ascend to the throne immediately upon the death of King Edward only in the event that his father waived his rights in favor of the son.

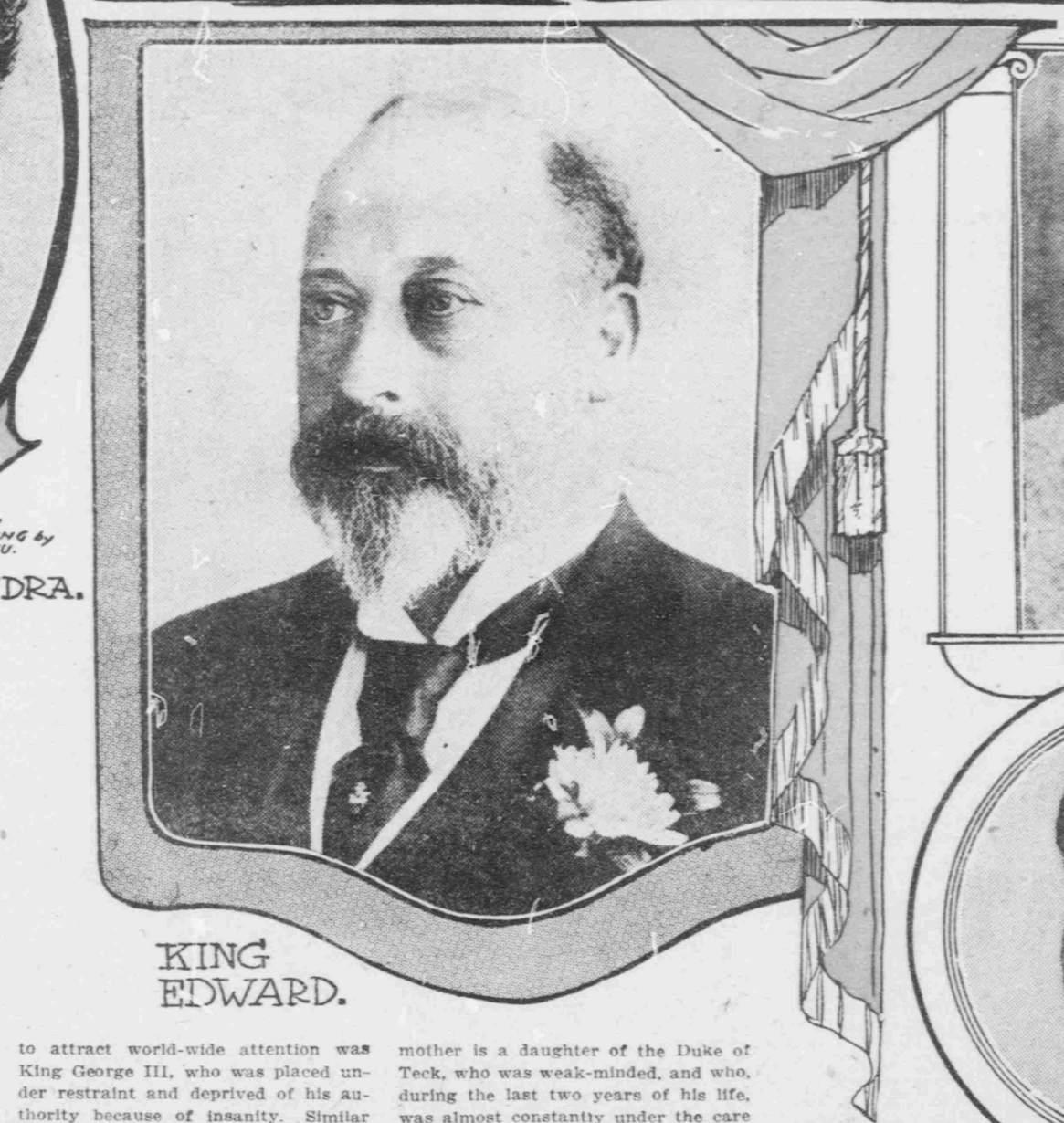
The most logical conclusion yet advanced is that King Edward believed that the Prince of Wales will not long survive him. He wishes, therefore, to have the next in line properly equipped to take up the reins of government, giving him in the meantime the advantage of his own experience, and so the youth who today has one life between him and the throne is in reality being groomed with the same care, and is receiving a diplomatic training that his father never had.

## Surmises on Purpose.

The care bestowed on the lad may be due, also, to the desire of the royal household to train his mind so carefully that there will be no breakdown in later years, when, barring his death in the meantime, he will follow his father on the throne.

As compared with other European nations, England in modern years has been free from insane kings. The last

## TO BE BRITAIN'S RULER. PRINCE OF WALES MOST UNPOPULAR of the NOBILITY.



KING EDWARD.

to attract world-wide attention was King George III, who was placed under restraint and deprived of his authority because of insanity. Similar measures were at one time contemplated with regard to his son, William IV, whose conduct while on the throne was characterized by an eccentricity that bordered on lunacy.

Those pessimistically inclined who look for possible mishaps to royalty are pointing in this connection to the family of the Prince of Wales. It is a fact known to medical science that much of the insanity among royalty in Europe is caused by marriage between royal couples who are too closely related.

## Marriages Leave Taint.

In countless instances these marriages leave a taint which in ordinary life would be regarded by parents as an insuperable obstacle to matrimonial alliances for their children. The present reigning family is not free from these marriages between blood relatives, and the Prince of Wales' grandparents—Prince Albert and Queen Victoria—were first cousins.

On the maternal side of the house, Prince Edward has an even worse ancestral record to look back on. His

mother is a daughter of the Duke of Teck, who was weak-minded, and who, during the last two years of his life, was almost constantly under the care of alienists.

There is a type of womanly beauty in the family, coupled with a healthful democracy of which the young prince is proud. The type, adored by all England, is the Princess Victoria. Fairly well beyond the age when most members of royal families are married, the princess remains a maiden, not of necessity, but from choice. The suitors to her hand are legion, but one and all have received the same answer, and all the persuasion of which royal families are capable has been unable to make the princess wed a man she does not love.

The princess is the daughter of the King and Queen, and is now thirty years old. It is not to be understood that the princess has been without romances. On the contrary, here are of the sort about which thrilling novels, and her most ardent lovers are said to have been men of wit outside the pale of royal blood. The latest whose name was coupled with hers was that of Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, the celebrated Norwegian explorer.

Dr. Nansen appeared before King Edward several years ago, and the princess became deeply attracted by his experiences. The explorer found himself as much interested in telling of his experiences as she was to listen to them. Subsequently Dr. Nansen represented his government in London. His wife died and some months later his friendship with the daughter of England's King was renewed. The question of a marriage between a member of the royal household, and so close to the throne, with an untitled suitor, was given little consideration by those who understood the rigid rulings of the British court.

At one time a romantic story was written of how the princess was loved by an obscure bookbinder who had restored to her a book she had dropped as she alighted from her carriage in Bond street. Every time the bookbinder saw a picture of the princess, the story goes, he would buy it, write a verse on parchment, bind photo-



PRINCE EDWARD.



PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

the Duke of Clarence, would become Prince of Wales upon the death of Queen Victoria. The duke died suddenly, in 1892, of pneumonia. Even when he succeeded to the higher title Prince George, was little known beyond the confines of the royal palace and in the British navy, where he was known as the Sailor Prince. In 1901 and 1902 the prince made an extensive tour, visiting Canada, Australia, South Africa, and Ceylon. It was at the latter place that he became involved in matters which were especially displeasing to his father many years before, and his later stay was very short.

The prince also has a taste for agriculture and stock raising, and last, but not least, he is fond of the theater. Other romances have involved the King's daughter, but she apparently remains "heart whole and fancy free." The Prince of Wales, brother of the Princess Victoria, was born June 3, 1865. He was married in 1893 to Princess Victoria Mary of Teck. Six children have been born to them, the eldest, Prince Edward Albert, being born in 1894. The other children are Prince Albert Frederick Arthur George, born



PRINCESS VICTORIA.

graph and verse in leather, burnish and engrave it with the monogram of the princess and send her the gift. It was said these pretty little tributes reached the princess for eight years until one day, just like in the fairy stories, the most beautiful of all fell into the hands of the King and Queen. The princess was ill. When she became well her admirer had disappeared, and it was said he had been thrown into a prison on the ground of being a lunatic.

AN EYE TO BUSINESS.

An expert golfer had the misfortune to play a particularly vigorous stroke at the moment that a steady wayfarer skulked across the edge of the course. The ball struck the trespasser and rendered him briefly insensible. When he recovered a \$5 bill was pressed into his hand by the regretful golfer. "Thanky, sir," said the injured man after a kindling glance at the money. "An' when will you be playin' again, sir?"—Lippincott's Magazine.